

Lost Creeks and Wetlands of Edmonton

“Urbicide”

McKernan Lake. Lendrum Lake. Groat Creek, not Groat Road.

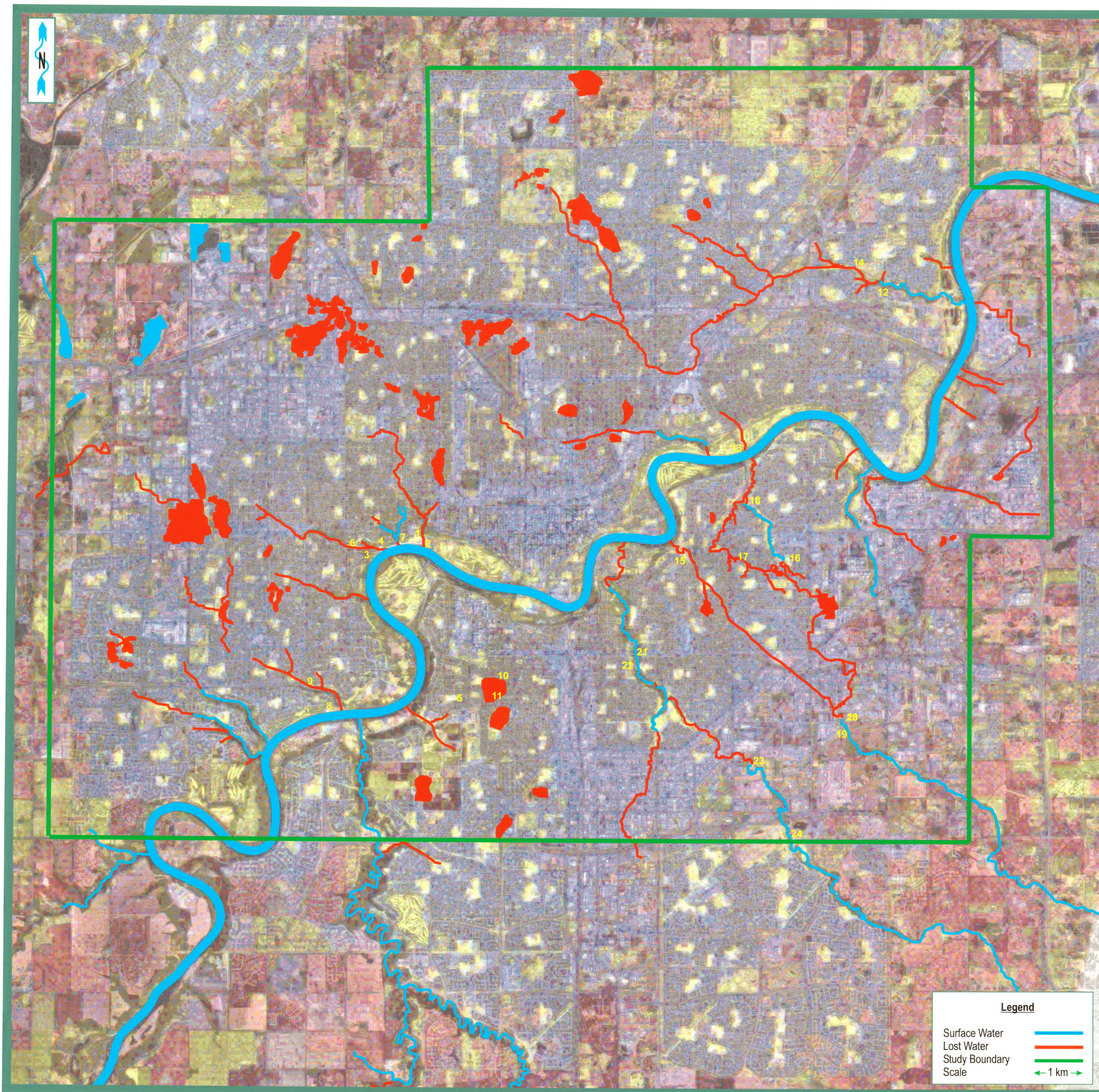
This map was created to show “lost” creeks and wetlands of Edmonton - water that has been paved over or otherwise removed. Marshes, lakes, and creeks shown in red no longer exist on the landscape



Expanding Edmonton

In 1999, Edmonton's population was 650,000 residents. Edmonton planners anticipate 44,000 new residents over the next 5 years and by 2020, the population of Edmonton is expected to be almost 900,000. Extensive development and expansion into natural areas are planned to accommodate new residents.

A number of development projects are already under construction along Whitemud Creek, Blackmud Creek, and Fulton Creek, and in marsh areas in the city's north end. The wetlands and creeks in these areas should be protected from development so that we don't have to add more red to this map!



This map was created using 1924 City of Edmonton air photos and 2000 City of Edmonton air photo mosaic, LandSat Satellite Image, Deane's "Plan of Edmonton Settlement NWT" (1882) and reference to other archival maps. Created Dec 2001.

Produced by Kathryn Martell and Henry Dammeyer for Biology 601 / Anthropology 585, University of Alberta, Fall 2001.

Lost Legacy

Before the growth of Edmonton, this area was a mosaic of wetlands, marshes, and small creeks that were part of a connected landscape feeding the North Saskatchewan River and providing extensive habitat for wildlife. Today, many of those wetlands and creeks are gone: drained, culverted, or buried under fill as Edmonton grows. Vital aquatic links have been permanently severed. Over time, as memories fade and residents move, our cultural and historical ties to these lost water bodies are also lost.



Be a Voice for Change!

In order to protect natural areas and water resources, we need to plan for practical, sustainable growth. This map shows that already many creeks and wetlands have been lost in Edmonton. To prevent more creeks from being paved over, we need to get involved! Community action is critical to protecting natural areas in cities.

The City of Edmonton is responsible to its citizens for the way new developments are built. Call the Citizen Action Centre (496-8200) and tell City Council we want to *stop losing our creeks*.

WILLIAM C. WONDERS
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